



## COUNTY OF SAN D NEWS RELEA

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### WHAT TO DO WHEN ASH STOPS FALLING

#### *Tips for Cleaning Homes, Vehicles and Yards*

Falling ash is a problem while fires continue to rage throughout the County. But after the flames are gone coming down, cleaning the house, car, boat and yard will be a problem.

Runoff water filled with ash can clog storm drains and pollute waterways. Precautions need to be taken to the impact, including:

- Determine if ash and debris can be contained and cleaned up without washing material into the water system
- Wash ash and debris into landscaped areas wherever practical
- Use a damp mop to clean ash and debris from small areas
- Dampen accumulated ash and debris and scrape or vacuum it up using a vacuum with adequate suction
- Take vehicles to a car wash or wash vehicles over a vegetated area such as a lawn
- Redirect downspouts to landscaped areas when cleaning off roofs
- Use a high efficiency HEPA-type vacuum to clean indoor carpets
- Use a damp cloth to pick up dust from smaller surfaces like counters

[http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/enterprise\\_portal/fire\\_ash\\_clean.html](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/enterprise_portal/fire_ash_clean.html)

- Use a damp mop for non-porous surfaces like tile or vinyl floors

More detailed information on ash clean up is available at the County Department of Public Works web site (<http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw/watersheds/stormwater.html>) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board Web site (<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/>).

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